



Geography Compass: Climate change and human health

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Abstract:

What kinds of climate-mediated diseases exist, and how are projected climate changes expected to alter their spread and timing? Disease is produced in a complex way, through coupled interactions between natural and human systems. Climate is a major factor controlling ecosystem variability and therefore the potential for outbreaks of certain diseases. Yet the concept of vulnerability shows how overall disease risk depends not only on the environmental exposure, but also on the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the group and place experiencing it. These interactions between environment and society are highlighted through a set of climate-related diseases, ranging from direct to complex relationships, including extreme heat, air pollution, aeroallergens, fungi, water- and food-borne diseases, influenza, rodent-borne diseases, and insect-borne diseases.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-8198.2007.00037.x>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Meteorological Factors, Precipitation, Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens, Ozone, Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen, Pathogen

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Livestock Productivity

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

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Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Airborne Disease: Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever), Influenza

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, E. coli, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Schistosomiasis

Vectorborne Disease: Flea-borne Disease, General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Flea-borne Disease: Plague

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, West Nile Virus, Yellow Fever

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease

Zoonotic Disease: General Zoonotic Disease, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Tularemia, Other Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic Disease (other): Foot-and-mouth disease; Rabies

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Chronic bronchitis

Other Health Impact: Heatstroke

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Workers

Other Vulnerable Population: Pre-existing medical conditions

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

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Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified